Production and quality of coal

687. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of grade-wise production with percentage break-up of coal in the country during the last two years ;

(b) the details of the steps taken to improve the quality of coal ;

(c) what is the percentage of underground mining to production of open cast mining at present and how does it compare to that in 1975-76 ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to increase underground mining to increase quality of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY of COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Figures of grade-wise coal production in the country for 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as under :—

Grade	1991-92 (provisional)		1992-93 (provisional)	
	Production (million tonnes)	%age of total production	Production (million tonnes)	%age of total production
1				5
Coking Coal				
Metallurgical	35.30	15.40	35.48	14.89
Low volatile Medium	9.94		9.59	4.03
Blendable/semi-coking	0.48	0.21	0.33	0.14
Total	45.72	19.94	45.40	19.06
Non-Coking Coal				
Superior	25.96	11.32	26.45	11.10
Medium	72.10	31.45	70.83	29.74
Inferior	85.50	37.29	95.54	40.10
Total	183.56	80.06	192.83	80.94
Grand Total	229.28	—	238.23	—

(b) Steps taken to improve the quality of coal include inter-alia :—

(i) Coking coals are beneficiated before despatch to the steel plants except superior blendable coals.

(ii) Existing washeries are being modified to improve the productivity and quality of clean coal in accordance with the Altekar Committee.

(iii) Capacity of coal handling and screening facilities to improve consistency of quality of despatches is being augmented.

(iv) Officers have been designated who are responsible for quality of coal despatched from each siding.

(v) Consumers are required to depute their representatives to the siding of participate a joint sampling in respect of power, steel, cement and fertilizers sectors and to oversee the qualit yof loading in respect of other sectors. As a result

of this there has been considerable reduction in quality complaints. The complaints from power houses which is the single largest consumers of low grade coal have come down from 1.37 complaints per million tonnes in 1990-91 to 0.80 complaints per million tonnes in 1992-93 for CIL.

(c) The information in respect of Coal Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited is as under :—

Year	%age of total production			
	Coal India Limited		Singareni Collieries Company Limited	
	Underground	Open Cast	Underground	Opencast
1	2	3	4	5
1975-76	73	27	100	—
1991-92	28	72	60	40
1992-93 (provisional)	27	73	60	40

Immediately after nationalisation in order to meet the ever increasing demand of coal particularly for the power sector the strategy adopted was to meet the demand from open cast mines. However, substantial inferior grade coking coal was also available which was amenable techno-economically for open cast mines.

(d) The choice of open cast or underground mining depends on factors like depth and thickness of coal seams, gradient of seams, multiplicity of seams, presence of worked out old mines in the vicinity etc. Steps taken to augment underground coal production, inter-alia, include opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, application of new technologies to achieve maximum results and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

Conditions for import of coal by State Governments

688. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the norms and conditions a State Government has to follow before importing coal for the use of thermal power plant;

(b) whether there is any monitoring agency to ensure that the procedures laid down in the rules and adhered to; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Under the present Export and Import Policy, coal can be freely imported. However, import duty at the prevent rate is required to be paidi for such imports. The provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, under which the Export and Import Policy is notified, are administered by Ministry of Commerce and Director General of Foreign Trade.

Transportation of Coal by subsidiaries

689. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of Coal produced and how much that is being transported from production point to Railway Siding